

TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9628
Fax (978) 264-9630

Bruce M. Stamski, P.E.
Town Engineer/Director of Public Works

May 16, 2007

Acton Planning Board
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Re: Scenic Road Hearing - High Street - Stone Wall Relocation
Parker and High Street Intersection Improvement Project

Members of the Board,

The Engineering Department is requesting a scenic road hearing under Town General Bylaw Chapter J (MGL Ch 40 Section 15C) for High Street at the intersection with Parker Street. This request is being made so that the Town can relocate the existing stone wall along the northeasterly corner of the intersection in front of 185 Parker Street. This stone wall is a relatively new wall that was built in the 1970's. The wall was constructed within the road right of way and it does not serve as a property boundary. The Town has an agreement with the property owner to complete this work. The landowner has also agreed to donate a small parcel of land to the Town in order to create a uniform road shoulder along this intersection rounding. The scope of the proposed work includes the following:

- Relocating the stone wall to improve sight distances at the intersection
- Transplanting the existing bushes behind the relocated stone wall
- Loaming and seeding the disturbed areas.

Existing Traffic Assessment

To assess the existing traffic at the intersection, automatic traffic counters were set-up over a seven-day period (May 9th-15th) on High Street. The purpose of the traffic study was to collect current traffic data (traffic volume, speed study & vehicle classifications) for High Street.

The traffic count closest to the intersection determined the average daily vehicle count for High Street just north of Parker Street is about 5,028 vehicles per day and that the 85th percentile speed is about 39 mph. The posted speed limit along this section of High Street is 30 mph. The Massachusetts Highway Department Procedures for Speed Zoning, which applies to municipal streets, states the following:

"The speed at or below which 85% of the motorists travel is the principle value used for establishing speed zones. This is commonly referred to as the 85th percentile speed. This method is based on numerous studies that indicate that the majority of motorists are prudent and capable of selecting safe speeds. The 85th percentile speed is the national standard for establishing safe speed limits."

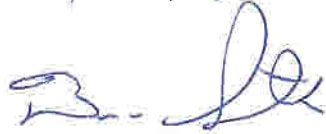
The proposed work at the intersection will improve the sight distance for motorists stopped on Parker Street and turning onto High Street.

Attached is a copy of the proposed Construction Plans and photos depicting the intersection.

Sincerely,

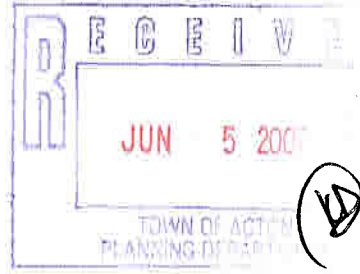
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fleury".

Daniel Fleury, Engineering Assistant

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Bruce M. Stamski, P.E.
Town Engineer/Director of Public Works

cc: Don P Johnson/Town Manager



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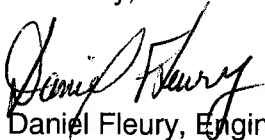
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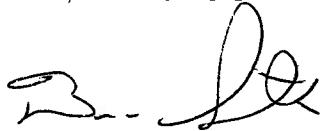
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Sincerely,



Daniel Fleury, Engineering Assistant



Bruce M. Stamski, P.E.
Town Engineer/Director of Public Works

cc: Don P Johnson/Town Manager

STAKES ALONG SIDELINE
OF PARKER STREET

EXISTING WALL ALONG
PARKER STREET
TO BE RELOCATED



ORIGINAL WALL

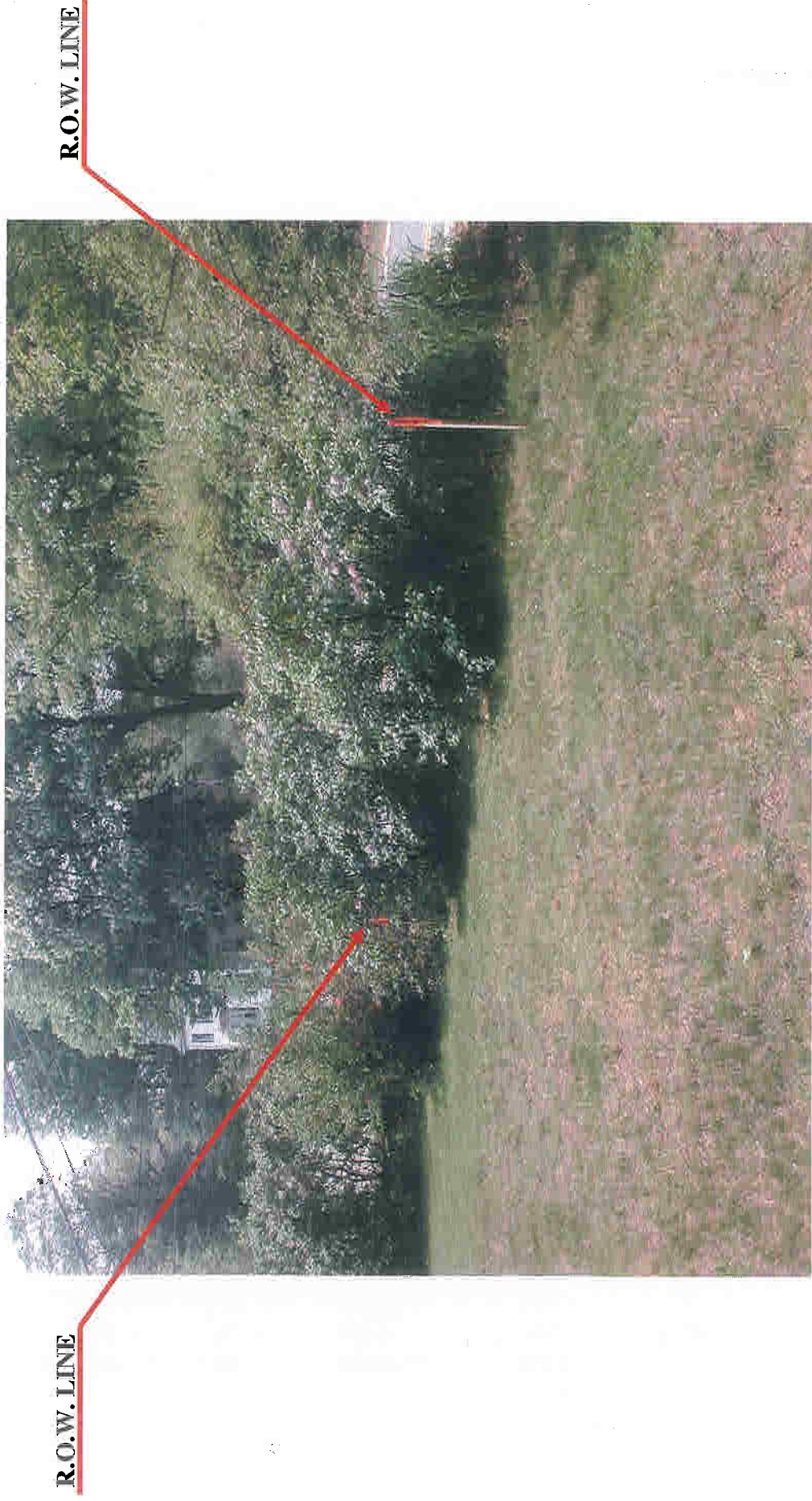
EXISTING LILAC BUSHES



**EXISTING STONE WALL
ALONG HIGH STREET**

EXISTING WALL TO BE RELOCATED

STAKES INDICATING LOCATION OF R.O.W. LINE BEHIND CLUSTER OF LILACS



SIGHT DISTANCE WHEN THE DRIVER IS AT THE STOP LINE



SIGHT DISTANCE WHEN THE DRIVER IS BEYOND THE STOP LINE

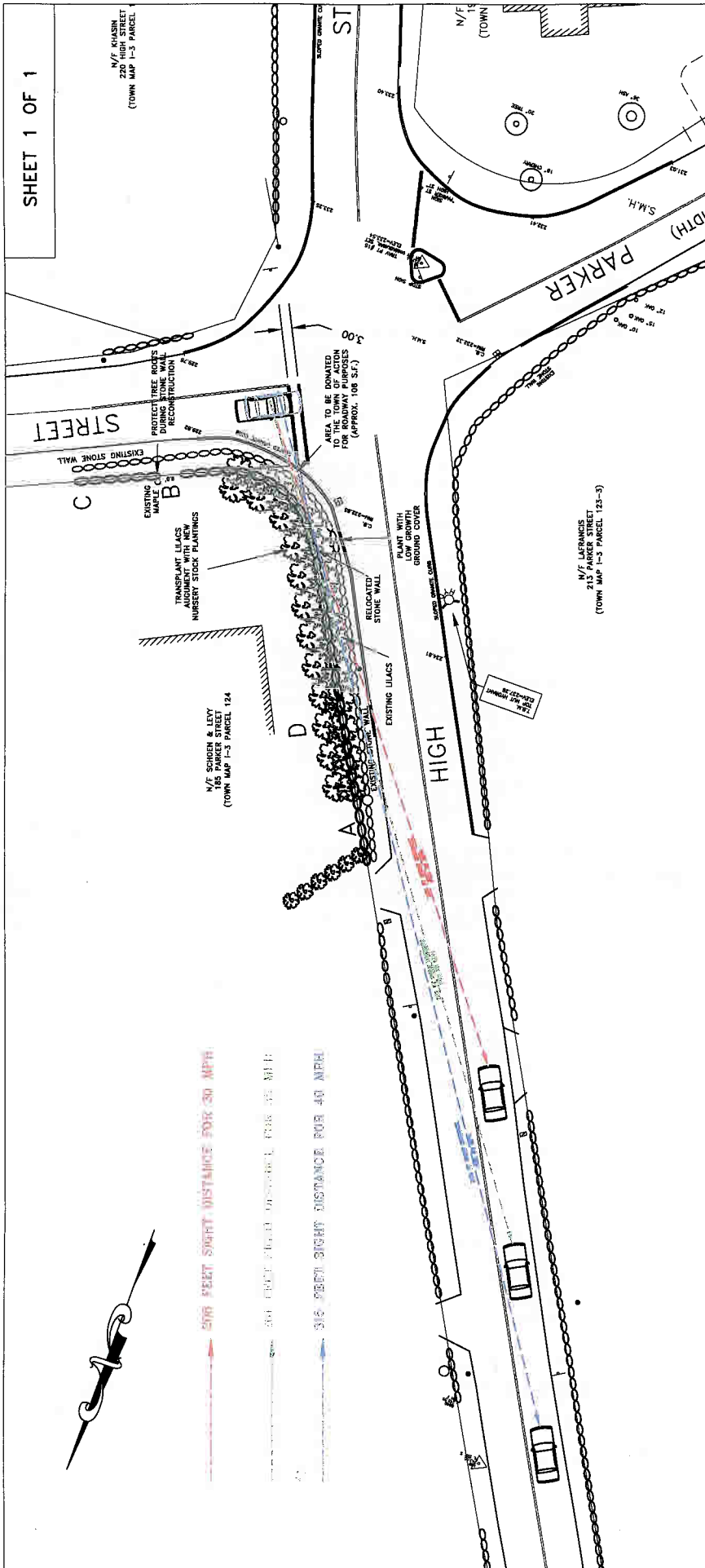


PICTURE TAKEN BY THE DRIVER



STOP LINE

DRIVER PULLING BEYOND STOP LINE IN ORDER TO SEE UNCOMING TRAFFIC



TOWN OF ACTON ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

PROPOSED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT
HIGH STREET &
PARKER ST

SKETCH PLAN

SCALE: AS NOTED

DATE: 5/17/2007

GRAPHIC SCALE



(IN FEET)
1 inch = 30 ft.